FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CONTADORA MINISTERS DISCUSS UPCOMING MEETING

PA101510 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0127 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Caracas, 9 Apr (EFE) -- The next meeting of the Contadora Group and Central American plenipotentiaries will try to establish the control and verification mechanisms that will allow for the continuation of the commitments established in the peace document prepared by that group. When making this statement, Mexican under secretary for foreign relations, Ricardo Valero, pointed out that they have studied several observations made by countries with important experience in the verification and control of actions intended to preserve peace. The Mexican diplomat added that the experience of the United Nations and regional governments on the matter were also reviewed, including the experiences of Canada which has furnished some pointers that we consider advisable.

Valero participated with his colleagues from Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela, Laura Ardila, Jose Maria Cabrera, and German Nava, respectively, in the meeting that concluded today in Caracas, prior to the meeting of plenipotentiary ministers of Contadora and Central America scheduled for 11 and 12 April in Panama.

Valera added that another objective is the convocation, as soon as possible, of a meeting of the nine Contadora and Central American foreign ministers to approve the Contadora Document for Regional Peace and Cooperation, and conclude the present phase.

We hope, said Valero, that the political will that has prevailed thus far in the Central American region will permit us to advance in this delicate task.

Meanwhile, German Nava, Venezuelan deputy foreign minister, affirmed that the success of the Contadora Group's peace effort depends on the political will of the Central American countries. According to Nava, a great effort has been made to correct the ambiguities that existed in the text of the peace document, mainly those related to the control and verification of the commitments established therein.

The Venezuelan diplomat explained that the document contemplates many aspects; therefore, the clarification of certain points is a difficult task. As an example, he cited the commitments in the political, socioeconomic, security, and military areas, and said that it is difficult, although not impossible to reconcile all the countries' criteria on these aspects.

Nava noted that thus far good political will is evident, in the Central American countries, although perhaps not enough. However, we in Contadora are optimistic and we are striving to obtain the formulas that will permit a reconciliation of the various viewpoints, he said.

Jose Maria Cabrera, Panamanian deputy foreign minister, announced that the peace proposal made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan will not be included in the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Contadora plenipotentiaries. Reagan's proposal, Cabrera affirmed, has no direct relation to the issues to be discussed, and primarily concerns relations between the Governments of Nicaragua and the United States. We are sticking to the mandate conferred upon us by the foreign ministers at their 15 March meeting in Brasilia to prepare that meeting, and I believe we are working on that most constructively, Cabrera added. I think that to consider that proposal would be interfering in the internal affairs of a Central American country, and it is a Contadora Group rule of conduct not to intervene and to respect the rights of each of the Central American nations, he noted.

Cabrera also referred to the Canadian proposal, which was analyzed and which offered verification and control mechanisms, although he did not specify if these will be included in the Contadora Group's peace document for Central America.

Meanwhile, the press chief of the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry, Marta Nunez de Lopez Trigo, told EFE that Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Urbina Ortega will go to Panama on Wednesday to represent his country at the meeting.

According to diplomatic sources in San Jose, the main issue to be discussed at this meeting will be the proposal submitted by Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, to include verification and control of the commitments acquired within the Contadora process. By then, the diplomats of the nine countries involved in the process will have the report prepared by the Contadora deputy foreign ministers, who met until today in Caracas to examine the observations submitted by the three Central American countries and their possible inclusion in the final document.

The document has the approval of Colombian President Belisario Betancur, who described it as indispensable to Central American peace.

NICARAGUA'S TINOCO ON CONTADORA, REAGAN PROPOSAL

PA110426 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0330 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Panama City, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Victor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister, described here today President Ronald Reagan's peace proposal for Nicaragua as a "criminal ultimatum" and a "blow" to the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group.

Tinoco arrived this evening in Panama City where he will represent his country at the meeting of the high-ranking Central American officials with the Contadora Group. The meeting is being held to continue the efforts for peace which were blocked last February.

At the airport, Tinoco told the reporters who were waiting for him that the U.S. proposal to achieve a peaceful arrangement in Nicaragua is "everything but a peace offering." "Reagan's proposal is not a peace proposal, it is far from being this," the Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister said.

Several days ago the U.S. President proposed a 2-month cease-fire in Nicaragua and the start of direct talks between the Sandinists and the main opposition groups, armed as well as civic groups. If these negotiations are not held, the U.S. President will ask the U.S. Congress to approve aid in the amount of $14 million for the groups attempting to overthrow the Managua regime.

"It is a criminal ultimatun," Tinoco said, "because he is attempting to demand a dialogue and if this is not done, he will give his mercenaries $14 million. Victor Hugo Tinoco also believes that the proposal is a "blow to Contadora" because it is "an attack on the principles" of the pacification group made up of Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela.

The United States as well as the main anti-Sandinist groups have been exerting pressure in the past few days to have the Contadora Group include the need for a dialogue between Nicaragua and its opposition at this meeting. This initiative, however, will not be included in tomorrow's talks since Contadora maintains that such a matter is "outside" its authority.

The Nicaraguan diplomat affirmed that President Reagan's proposal is "proof of the meddling in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua and of the foreign nature of the war" being waged in his country. He said: "This is a public relations maneuver aimed at the U.S. Congress because Reagan is in a very difficult position."

The Nicaraguan official said that he has come to this capital "prepared to work seriously and that he hopes that the other countries have "the political will" to continue with the negotiations for regional peace. [quotation marks as received] Tinoco noted that no "immediate results" should be expected from tomorrow's meeting.

The new Contadora meeting will discuss two proposals for controlling and verifying the security agreements of the "Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America." One of the proposals will be coming from the Contadora Group, which is promoting an initiative suggested by the Canadian Government, and the other will be presented jointly by El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica.

CONTADORA MEETING OPENS IN PANAMA CITY

PA111535 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1515 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Panama City, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Panamanian Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze today inaugurated a new Contadora meeting by stressing the "difficult, important, and crucial" moment that the efforts for peace in Central America are undergoing. Addressing 21 diplomatic representatives of Central America and the Contadora Group, made up of Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela, Cardoze said that the success of the negotiations for peace in the region depend on the meeting that opens today.

Today and tomorrow the plenipotentiary delegates will study the verification and control measures of the "Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America."

"While discussions are under way in Panama, violence continues in Central America and the hopes of its peoples depend to a great extent on what is achieved at this meeting," the Panamanian foreign minister said.

The meeting which began at 0930 (1430 GMT) is being held behind closed doors in the "Pan-American" room of a Panama City hotel.

Said To Be 'Going Well'

PA120204 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0138 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Panama City, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Optimism is the dominant note at the two meetings held today in this capital by representatives of the Contadora Group and Central American countries in their negotiations for peace in the region. The second meeting, held tonight, concluded punctually at 1900 local time (0000 GMT), following 7 hours of talks throughout the day.

Mexican Deputy Foreign Secretary Ricardo Valero said briefly "all is going well" when he was met by the news media at the hotel where the talks are being held. In addition, Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera said it has been "a good meeting." Cabrera stressed that today's activities were aimed at reviewing the mechanisms for control and verification of the "Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America."

Tomorrow the second and last phase in this round of talks will mainly "fine tune" these mechanisms, according to the Panamanian deputy foreign minister. Cabrera pointed out that the five Central American countries had reached an agreement regarding the proposals presented and said he feels "optimistic" about the outcome of this meeting.

All those attending the Contadora meeting were very brief in their statements at the conclusion of this evening's meeting.

Tinoco Opposes Majority Approval

PA120216 Paris AFP in Spanish 2333 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Panama City, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Nicaragua today rejected a Honduran, Salvadoran, and Costa Rican proposal that the accords of the meeting currently being held in Panama City, sponsored by the Contadora Group, be approved by majority and not by consensus, as has been done so far. Victor Hugo Tinoco, the Nicaraguan representative, said that such a decision would be detrimental to Nicaragua, which Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica seek to isolate.

Nevertheless, Tinoco asserted that his country has come to this meeting, which began in this city today, "willing to make progress," and he expressed his hope that the other nations will also demonstrate a political willingness for an agreement. Indicating that this is the only way to move forward after the inactivity of the Contadora Group member countries, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia, Tinoco said: "This is a good opportunity."

Tinoco later denied that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposal was presented to be analyzed during today's meeting, adding that the proposal is a long way from the Contadora Group's true principles."

In addition, a member of the Salvadoran delegation said that the proposal does not belong in the Contadora process and that, therefore, it cannot be a working document.

Minutes before the second round of talks began, Tinoco expressed support for the Contadora proposal on control and verification mechanisms and said that this proposal makes it possible to achieve balanced progress during the current meeting.

The Contadora deputy foreign ministers and the Central American representatives are fully empowered to discuss and make decisions on political, refugee, social, and economic matters, as well as on security verification and control.

According to the agenda, those attending the meeting will try to prepare the mechanisms for the installation and initiation of activities for the execution and followup of the Contadora peace and cooperation document approved in September 1984. The Contadora Group is to present a proposal regarding the treatment of the matters pending for the approval of these mechanisms.

ALFONSIN DISCUSSES REAGAN PLAN WITH U.S., NICARAGUA

Telephone Conversation with Reagan

PY111700 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1350 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (TELAM) -- The daily LA RAZON reported today that U.S. Presidnet Ronald Reagan called President Raul Alfonsin on Monday, 8 April, to discuss in detail the U.S. position on the Central American crisis.

Citing official sources, LA RAZON reported that on Maunday Thursday, 4 April, U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz told the Foreign Ministry about the U.S. proposal on Nicaragua. This was perhaps a gesture on the part of Washington towards Argentina, the only country besides the Contadora Group countries (Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela) to have been confidentially informed of the Reagan proposal prior to its announcement.

The newspaper added that, although no official release has been made on this, reliable sources reported that the Reagan-Alfonsin phone conversation at the initiative of Washington was cordial and productive.

President Reagan, LA RAZON reported, began the conversation by pointing out to President Alfonsin that the proposal was still not public, and then went on to elaborate. President Alfonsin thanked Reagan for his gesture. The sources said that the U.S. peace plan represents something of a shift in the search for a political solution to the Central American problem, not just a military solution.

LA RAZON noted that the Argentine Government considers the slight shift in the U.S. position more in line with the position Alfonsin upheld during his recent visit to the United States.

The newspaper added that at the personal level, which is nothing to be disregarded in international politics as proven by the politically significant fact that Reagan called Buenos Aires, there was an exchange of courtesies, which included Easter greetings for Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy.

LA RAZON assures that, at the suggestion of Belisario Betancur, Alfonsin called Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi to learn through the, the repercussions of the U.S. proposal in Europe. This intermediary role has probably brought Argentina closer to the Contadora Group countries. LA RAZON said that Betancur himself made contacts with Cuba and sent his foreign minister, Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, to personally feel out the position of the influential Fidel Castro.

The daily also reported that Alfonsin conferred with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega over the phone, and that the charges were paid by the Nicaraguan Government. It also revealed that Daniel Ortega had not repeated to Alfonsin his public criticism of the proposal in regard to a meeting with the contras, but limited himself to expressing hopes for the Americans to resume talks in Manzanillo, Mexico, so that direct negotiations can be resumed.

The daily also reported that Alfonsin had contacted Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi on the subject.

Consults With Ortega

PY112324 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2245 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin has refrained from issuing a statement in support of Ronald Reagan's proposal that the Nicaraguan Government start a dialgoue with the anti-Sandinist rebels. Alfonsin made the decision after holding a telephone conversation with Reagan and consulting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and with the Colombian, Spanish, and Italian leaders.

The draft statement, which was ultimately discarded, was discussed on 4-5 April by President Alfonsin with his closest aides, including Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who in earlier remarks had highlighted positive aspects of Reagan's plan.

Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez today conceded that Alfonsin talked by telephone with Reagan on 8 April, when Reagan called from Washington to brief him on aspects of the U.S. Government's peace proposal for Central America.

The spokesman confirmed that Alfonsin received another telephone call yesterday, this time from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

According to those [as received] sources, Alfonsin and his aides analyzed the draft statement in support of the U.S. proposal at the Olivos residence during Holy Week.

The sources said that Alfonsin finally refrained from issuing an official statement, possibly heeding the advice of his closest aides, including Foreign Minister Caputo.

The draft statement contained strong support for the U.S. Central American peace proposal since it envisages a possible non-military solution, which was advocated by Alfonsin in his recent talks with Reagan.

The sources said Alfonsin heeded the advice of his aides and decided to discard the draft statement, which Caputo played a leading role in drafting.

RUMORS ABOUT ALFONSIN'S RESIGNATION DENIED

Senator Says Overthrow Imminent

PY112320 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2210 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (NA) -- The National Justicialist Council elected in Rio Hondo this afternoon admitted that it has receivei a report from Buenos Aires leaders confirming that Senator Luis Salim [Santiago del Estero Province] has urged them to unite around Herminio Iglesias in view of the imminent overthrow of Raul Alfonsin and his replacement by Victor Martinez.

At a press conference granted by several members of the council elected in Rio Hondo, Chaco Province Deputy Adolfo Torresagasti pointed out that if these remarks attributed to Salim turn out to be true, "drastic measures" could be adopted against him.

Jose de la Sota, political secretary of the Council, called "oligarchic" the "alleged Peronist" leaders who have participated in ceremonies at which Generals Leopoldo Galtieri and Ramon Camps were extolled.

The Peronists claimed that the government's "inconsistencies" are allowing "the existence of a climate of popular disbelief which self-appointed advocates of antidemocratic solutions are taking advantage of."

Spokesman Dismisses Rumors

PY120300 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0055 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (NA) -- Sensationalist rumors, without any basis in the truth, regarding imminent institutional changes, including the resignation of President Raul Alfonsin, circulated throughout the day, causing unrest and many consultations with government officials and sectors of the media.

The endless rumors and the subsequently tense political atmosphere prompted the presidential spokesman to dismiss them this evening by denying that President Alfonsin had mentioned the possibility of resigning his post during a meeting with leaders of the rural sector.

Official and Radical Party circles have said that these rumors are part of a psychological campaign connected with the trial of the former military junta members who ruled the country during the antisubversive struggle.

The most noteworthy rumors are those regarding Alfonsin's alleged desire to resign, the existence of an extremely critical document attributed to a group of active military officers, and the existence of charges against a Peronist senator regarding his connection with the so-called "institutional coup" aimed at replacing the president with Vice President Victor Martinez.

The situation has prompted many consultations with government officials and phone calls, especially from the interior of the country, to sectors of the media by political and union leadrs, businessmen, and other sectors wanting to learn the truth.

DEPUTY ANNOUNCES $12 BILLION ARMED FORCES DEBT

PY111844 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Radical Civic Union Deputy Balbino Subiri, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee, has stated that the Argentine Armed Forces debt after the Malvinas war totals $12 billion. This is the result of the purchase of arms and equipment needed during the Malvinas war.

He added that all details in this regard cannot be disclosed since this is secret information and if we were to disclose it, our potential enemies would just have to read the newspapers to get necessary information.

ELECTORAL COURT HEAD SAYS ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

PY112112 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Excerpt] National Electoral Court President Edgar Oblitas has said that the national, general, and municipal elections will be held on 14 July. Oblitas made this statement this morning and added that he had briefed Congress on the need to approve a law on municipal jurisdictions. However, he said, the Chamber of Deputies does not consider this prerequisite to be necessary.

[Begin Oblitas recording] The National Electoral Court has informed Congress of its position on the need to approve a law on municipal jurisdictions. However, the Chamber of Deputies, where the draft law is now being reviewed, has issued a resolution stating that it is not necessary to comply with this requirement, according to the provisional article of the municipal electoral law.

When this problem is overcome, the municipal elections can be held. The Congress contends, however, that elections can be held under the present circumstances, and that the only thing the court needs to do is comply with the law.

However, the National Electoral Court stands by its position, and it will comply with the law. We will hold the national, general municipal elections as scheduled. [end recording]

DRUG SEIZURES INVOLVING C-47, 'COLOMBIANS' REPORTED

PY101855 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Statement by Colonel Carlos Fernandez Gonzalez, chairman of the National Commission for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] We have a report from Cochabamba issued yesterday which may already be known to the public and which reports that the departmental police have started the initial legal procedures regarding the confiscation of 1,161 kg of sulfate [as heard]. The police reports say that 11 persons were arrested, several vehicles were seized, as well as [words indistinct] a C-47 airplane belonging to the Tauro company.

It is also important to point out that a very large operation was conducted in Santa Cruz Department, near the frontier. An armed confrontation took place against drug traffickers, who are allegedly Colombian, but they managed to flee leaving their documents behind. However, the important thing is that anti-drug commission members seized five suitcases containing 50 kg of very pure cocaine hydrochloride. This represents a very big blow against drug trafficking because the 50 kg of hydrochloride are worth about $25 or $30 million in the United States.

LECHIN REFUTES VEJA CHARGES OF ARMS SMUGGLING

PY120117 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0731 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] La Paz, 11 Apr (EFE) -- Juan Lechin Oquendo, executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), today called "childish" the report by a Brazilian magazine charging him with being engaged in arms smuggling with the purpose of toppling President Hernan Siles Zuazo's government.

The Brazilian magazine VEJA recently published a report on the alleged smuggling of arms from Argentina to "arsenals" of Bolivian leftist groups allegedly influenced by Lechin Oquendo's call to "arm the people and seize power."

In an exclusive statement to EFE, the labor union leader said that the charges obviously intend to discredit him internationally. Lechin added:

"I have asserted that a revolution is the only political alternative that the Bolivian people have and that for this an armed spearhead is necessary, but to say that I am promoting the contraband in arms is naive, childish, almost stupid."

The union leader pointed out that "I do not own a single gun, I do not go around armed, and neither am I engaged in arms smuggling as some are speculating."

The veteran leader said that the workers "armed spearhead" will be established "when we decide to carry out a revolution, but that is not possible now because the necessary conditions have not been achieved."

Lechin added: "We workers are going to get armed because the only solution to our problems is a revolution. However, we are not going to get armed by smuggling arms into the country from Argentina or Brazil, because there are already enough arms in Bolivia."

He explained that the radicalization of the Bolivian workers, who dismiss the traditional democratic system as a means to improve their standard of living, is prompted by the impoverishment of the majority sector and the enrichment of the minority, which is being encouraged by the current government.

On the other hand, Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has told EFE that investigations are being made into the magazine's charges. Alvarez Plata added, however, that "I do not think any leftist group, and less still the COB, under the current circumstances, would bring arms into the country for the purpose of toppling the government."

Interior Ministry Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez has also told EFE that the only armed groups that exist in Bolivia are linked to drug trafficking. The under secretary thus dismissed the existence of an "arsenal for leftist groups."

Sanchez added that "there are no armed leftist groups in the country. The people proved this during the general workers strike and the COB leaders have admitted it publicly."

The under secretary recalled that "rightist" groups have, likewise, slandered the current government by charging it with smuggling arms for the purpose of forming defense commandos.

Referring to the statements made by Alvarez Plata and Sanchez, Juan Lechin Oquendo commented: "It is the first time I have heard government authorities say something sensible. It seems that they are coming to their senses."

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENT NEVES' CONDITION

Additional Operation Possible

PY120257 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo in Portuguese 0238 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Live report from Sao Paulo Heart Institute]

[Text] President Tancredo Neves is now undergoing a surgical puncture because the scintillographic tests taken this afternoon showed two infectious spots in the abdominal region. If the material removed contains pus, the president will have to undergo a seventh operation.

This information was just released by Dr Tarcisio Filomeno, one of the physicians treating President Neves. We are alert, awaiting a medical bulletin to be released by presidential Press Secretary Antonio Brito.

[Rio De Janeiro Radio Globo at 0250 GMT 12 April carries a medical bulletin read by presidential spokesman Antonio Brito, who confirms that the president is now "undergoing a new surgical operation."]

Operation Confirmed

PY120447 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo in Portuguese 0428 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Report on President Tancredo Neves' health released by Presidential Press Secretary Antonio Brito at the Reboucas Convention Hall in Sao Paulo -- live]

[Text] Gentlemen: I would like to give you some information on the operation now being performed on President Tancredo Neves at the Heart Institute. The doctors have asked me to report the following:

The president was admitted to the operating room at 2355 on 11 April. He was administered a general anesthesia, which the patient has tolerated very well.

The doctors are performing the operation through the same incision as the first three operations. This part of the operation is already over and the doctors are now beginning to explore the abdominal cavity, performing a detailed examination of the area.

The doctors also asked me to report to you and to the public that the president is doing well and that he has satisfactorily resisted the operation. Given its characteristics, this operation will be long. As soon as new information is released, I will report it to you and to thepublic. Thank you very much.

Operation To Last 6 Hours

PY120625 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo in Portuguese 0600 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Acting President Jose Sarney has informed all the cabinet members that as of 2330 yesterday President Tancredo Neves had been taken to the operating theater unconscious to undergo an exploratory operation.

According to the information received, the operation will allegedly last 6 hours. Sarney has ordered all the ministers to remain in their residences or hotels.

Transport Minister Afonso Camargo has said that the doctors informed Acting President Jose Sarney that if the new operation was not performed, they would have exhausted all the chances that Tancredo Neves has to survive.

It is a very difficult operation and President Tancredo Neves might not survive this operation, which will take a very long time. This was stated after midnight in Brasilia by General Ivan de Souza Mendes, director of the National Intelligence Service. He said that he was informed about President Tancredo Neves' operation by Mauro Salles, secretary for extraordinary affairs, and that he immediately got in contact with Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, Navy Minister Admiral Enrique Saboya, and Aeronautic Minister General Moreira Lima.

Gen Ivan de Souza did not deny that everything is ready for any event. According to the high-ranking military source, the Army could be put on alert and the police forces of the federal district, Sao Paulo, and Minas Gerais in a state readiness.

Neves in Recovery Room

PY120945 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 0905 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Report on President Tancredo Neves' condition released by Presidential Press Secretary Antonio Brito at Reboucas Convention Hall -- live]

[Text] The medical team treating His Excellency, President Tancredo Neves, headed by Professor Dr Henrique Walter Pinotti, has issued the following report:

1. During the afternoon of 11 April, the president again had kidney, respiratory, and cardiovascular alterations, along with pressure and temperature fluctuations, and a bacteremic condition, all of which suggested the existence of new infections.

2. Biochemical blood tests confirmed this diagnosis, as was revealed by the high leukocyte, urea, creatinine, and glycemia levels.

3. The medical team performed sonographic and scintillographic tests, trying to locate the infections. However, these attempts failed.

4. In view of this situation, and having no other possibilities, a decision was made to perform a new operation on the patient.

5. The operation was performed by Professor Henrique Walter Pinotti with the assistance of Dr Angelita Gamma, Dr Marcial Cerqueira Cesar Machado, and Dr Wilson Polara. The patient was given a general anesthesia by Professor Dr Rui Gomide de Amaral.

6. Three infections were discovered.

7. The abdomen was closed with a plastic tissue protheses.

8. The patient has satisfactorily withstood the operation.

9. The president is now in the recovery room and his condition demands constant monitoring.

The bulletin is signed by Professors Dr Henrique Walter Pinotti and Joao Baptista Rezende Alves. Thank you.

SAO PAULO PARALYZED BY METALWORKERS STRIKE

PY120225 Paris AFP in Spanish 2048 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Brasilia, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Observers in Brasilia believe that the government of the new Republic of Brazil, headed by Acting President Jose Sarney, must start to fulfill its duties without waiting for the recovery of President Tancredo Neves, whose condition is considered critical.

But Sarney, who believed it his moral duty not to resort to all his presidential prerogatives while awaiting the return of the designer of the new Republic, has been forced to do so in view of the developments in the country.

The truce being observed so far by the most important labor unions, as a sign of respect for President Tancredo Neves, ended today.

The metallurgical industry in Sao Paulo State is paralyzed by a strike that could mobilize 360,000 workers of that sector. The Sao Paulo metalworkers, who are negotiating the renewal of their collective bargaining contracts, believe that the president's illness must not become an obstacle to their struggle for better salaries.

Luis Inacio da Silva (Lula), president of the Workers Party (PT), has warned businessmen against using Neves' illness to change the workers' will. Observers believe that the movement of the Sao Paulo metalworkers could spread like an oil leak and create serious difficulties for the new government.

At the same time, the government must tackle the disastrous situation in northern Brazil, where floods have left 300,000 people homeless.

The governors of the most affected states (Ceara, Maranhao, Piaui, and Rio Grande do Norte) have made desperate appeals to the federal government for aid for those people affected by the floods.

Sarney has decided to visit this region on Friday, 12 April, thus postponing until next weekend the cabinet meeting scheduled to evaluate the first 30 days of the new Republic.

In addition, the emergency plan announced to combat poverty, hunger, and unemployment in Brazil seems to be partially jeopardized by the lack of financial resources.

Moreover, the first disagreement between the executive branch and Congress has appeared over an operation aimed at saving the Sul-Brasileiro, which was fraudulently declared bankrupt.

In order to safeguard the jobs of 24,000 employees and the interests of thousands of owners of saving accounts, Sarney has decided to release 900,000 million cruzeiros ($180 million) in a rescue operation.

Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles, who is a nephew of President Neves, did not approve of the decision, which needs to be ratified by Congress.

Sarney will also have to start making decisions regarding the replacement of high-ranking officials in the federal government. The postponement of these decisions until Neves recovers has started to create dificulties in the functioning of the public administration.

Difficulties will also soon arise on the foreign front. According to Central Bank President Antonio Carlos Lemgruber, the negotiations with the IMF, which will start in May, threaten to be particularly difficult.

In Lemgruber's opinion, it will be necessary to propose to the IMF more realistic objectives for the Brazilian economy regarding inflation as well as the monetary expansion.

Lemgruber estimated that it is absolutely impossible to reach the annual 120-percent inflation rate target established during the previous negotiations with the IMF.

The president of the Central Bank admitted that this year Brazil will need fresh money, but not acquired through the large international private banks. Lemgruber said that the new financial resources could come from the World Bank, the IDB, and the IMF.

SARNEY SUSPENDS TRIP TO FLOODED AREAS

PY120715 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo in Portuguese 0707 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] It has been confirmed that Acting President Jose Sarney has canceled the trip he was to make at 0700 today to Ceara, Piaui, and Maranhao, which have been affected by the floods. Sarney made the decision as soon as he learned that President Tancredo Neves would undergo his seventh operation. The governors of the three states have already been notified of the decision by phone.

SARNEY MAY SUMMON CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY

PY120448 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0342 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] If another delay in the inauguration of President-elect Tancredo Neves is confirmed, Acting President Jose Sarney will have to make a decision as soon as possible to summon a constitutional assembly.

This will be done through a draft for a constitutional amendment that will summon elections for the constitutional assembly on 14 November 1985, according to Socialist Democratic Party leaders Fernando Enrique Cardoso and Pimento de Veiga.

SAO PAULO PT SUPPORTS SARNEY'S CONFIRMATION

PY120452 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0342 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Here in Sao Paulo the Workers Party [PT] has released a document to the media supporting the confirmation of Vice President Jose Sarney as president of the Republic and the summoning of a national constituent assembly.

LATE REPORT: NEVES RECOVERING FROM ANESTHESIA

PY121620 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1535 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Live report by Presidential Press Secretary Antonio Brito from the Sao Paulo Heart Institute]

[Text] The president has begun to recover from the general anesthesia he was administered last night before the new surgical operation. According to the physicians' evaluation, the president is doing well in the first hours after the surgery, and his vital signs have stabilized at last night's levels. As the day progresses the president is completely recovering from the effects of the general anesthesia he was given. The physicians will later make a more complete and detailed evaluation of the president's state of health.

At this time, however, I can say, on the basis of what I have just been told by the physicians, that the president has begun to recover from the general anesthesia and his basic signs have stabilized at last night's levels. Thank you.

PINOCHET, GOVERNMENT APPROVE BEAGLE TREATY

Pinochet Issues Statement

PY120422 Santiago Radio Chilean in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Live report by Osvaldo Yanez from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet tonight issued an official statement regarding the approval of the peace and friendship treaty by the government junta.

The official statement says:

The honorable government junta today approved the peace and friendship treaty signed on 29 November 1984 between Chile and Argentina.

By virtue of my constitutional powers, I have ordered the ratification of the treaty and hereby pledge upon the honor of the nation that it will be respected. A ceremony will be held in a place and on a date yet to be established for the exchange of the respective instruments of ratification. Once this step is complied with, the treaty will be promulgated as a law of the nation.

From the beginning and throughout the long period of negotiations, I devoted every effort to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. Although we went through extremely critical times, we managed to overcome them thanks to the fact that the entire people remained united and calm in defense of their rights and desire for peace.

The Holy Father, who managed to reconcile the Argentine and Chilean interests with great love and patience, has shown to the world that peace is feasible when the parties involved have goodwill and put aside extreme positions. I would like to convey to him the eternal gratitude of the Chilean people for his invaluable help.

Thus, a long, difficult process, which had kept the two countries estranged, has come to an end. I trust that the treaty will be instrumental in effectively paving the way for a durable peace and fruitful understanding between the two peoples. I will devote my best efforts to achieving this goal.

At this solemn stage in Argentine-Chilean relations, I also want to convey warm greetings from the government and people of Chile to the government and people of Argentina.

Del Valle Comments

PY120419 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The government junta has approved the Peace and Friendship Treaty with Argentina, thus putting an end to the century-old dispute over the southern territories.

Commenting on the approval of the treaty, Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle stated that he was always optimistic the treaty would be approved. In addition Del Valle expressed his appreciation of the task performed by the government junta and emphasized the effort made by the president of the republic, who was the great conductor of this issue.

[Begin recording] I am very satisfied. I was always very optimistic the treaty would be approved and that the Argentine legislative branch would approve it and that it would receive approval during the discussions in Rome.

Now then, this is a very important step. I am very grateful for the favorable decision of the members of the government junta. I also want to call attention to the gratitude that the country owes the president of the Republic, because he was the great conductor of all these discussions. He is the one who drew up the basic rules that had to be followed by the commission as well as by the ministers who preceded me and by myself. All the instructions the president issued were always complied with, and I believe that his skillful conduct led us to this very satisfactory stage. [end recording]

Continuing, Del Valle said that the exchange of the instruments of ratification should take place in Rome on 2 May and, afterward, that the (?treaty) will be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

[Begin recording] [Del Valle] The president of the Republic must ratify the treaty. He and the foreign minister must sign the treaty and, afterward, comes the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which is to take place in Rome...

[Reporter, interrupting] When will this...

[Del Valle, interrupting] Very likely on 2 May.

[Reporter] Who will attend the ceremony?

[Del Valle] The ceremony must be attended by the delegations from the two countries, the foreign ministers, and, of course, the mediator will be present.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] I beg your pardon?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] will be promulgated this treaty?

[Del Valle] No, the promulgation of the treaty will take place immediately after the instruments of ratification are exchanged in Rome.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the treaty would be rejected?

[Del Valle] I started on the assumption of the absolute good faith of all the people who have (?accompanied) me in this issue, and I believe that they had a right to disagree if they felt that the treaty had any flaws. They had to voice their disagreement. And I feel that it is important to state that you must have faith that this treaty has been drafted, discussed, and elaborated on by very qualified people, very patriotic people, very honorable people, studious people.

After long discussions, this is a transaction. Therefore, it is impossible to achieve in a treaty everything that a given country is striving for. An agreement, in which both countires yield, is always reached.

Nevertheless, I believe that this is a very positive treaty for Chile. As was stated today during the government junta meeting, this is a great treaty.

[Reporter] What matters [words indistinct]?

[Del Valle] Well, the documents...[rephrases] The exchange of documents, both the ones originating from the government junta as well as the responses from the ministry are classified. Therefore, (?I am unable to answer) your question because they are points that are contained in the treaty. [end recording]

In conclusion, Foreign Minister Jaimae Del Valle stated that the treaty expresses a willingness to achieve peace, something that must always be maintained, and that it is important to begin the integration process with Argentina.

ENVOY ANNOUNCES PINOCHET, ARANGUIZ VISITS TO PRC

PY120558 Paris AFP in Spanish 0511 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 12 Apr (AFP) -- Benjamin Opazo, Chilean ambassador to the PRC, today said in Santiago that Chilean President Augusto Pinochet would visit the PRC on a date yet to be set. The ambassador said that arrangements for the visit are being made through the foreign ministries of the two countries.

Opazo also disclosed that Chilean Education Minister Horacio Aranguiz will pay an official visit to the PRC in late June in order to consolidate the current bilateral cultural cooperation agreements. The PRC and Romania are the only countries in the communist bloc that have maintained diplomatic relations with Chile since the Soviet Union decided to break them in September 1973, when leftist President Salvador Allende was ousted.

SPORADIC 'INCIDENTS' MARK DAY OF PROTEST

Police, Military Increase Patrols

PY111810 Paris AFP in Spanish 1739 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Santiago, 11 Apr (AFP) -- A startling increase in military and policy patrols was noted today in the main streets of Santiago, Chile, at the start of a day of protest and for the defense of life, which has been called for by the unions that make up the National Workers Command (CNT).

Activities in the Chilean captial were carried out normally until noon, when an incident occurred in front of the Law School of the University of Chile, where the police dispersed young demonstrators who were shouting slogans against General Augusto Pinochet's government. Eyewitnesses to the incident stated that the police used tear gas bombs against the students, but there were no reports of persons injured or arrested.

An apparent state of normalcy was also observed on the Chilean capital's outskirts, but groups of demonstrators sporadically built barricades and fires in the working neighborhood of La Victoria. In that neighborhood, located on Santiago's southern outskirts, the militarized Carabaineros police detained worker Jorge Zuniga after an anti-government meeting in which more than 100 persons participated, according to reports from neighbors.

Demonstrators Wounded in Clashes

PY112307 Paris AFP in Spanish 2231 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Eight demonstrators today were wounded by pellets fired by members of hte Carabinero forces in the workers neighborhood of La Victoria, in southwestern Santiago.

This information was disclosed by witnesses of the incidents, which occurred within the framework of the day of protest and for the defense of life.

French priest Pierre Dubois, a parish priest of the La Victoria neighborhood of 32,000 people, told AFP that the people were wounded during various actions carried out by the police, who were trying to break up barricades and put out bonfires built on the streets by the inhabitants -- most of them unemployed. It was stated that some of the people who were wounded, among them a 14-year-old, were arrested by the police but were soon released after the French priest's mediation. According to inhabitants of La Victoria, worker Jorge Zuniga, arrested during a demonstration against the government in which about 100 people took part, was also released.

The demonstration was organized by the National Workers Command (CNT) after three members of the leftist opposition were kidnapped and murdered on 30 March by an unidentified group. It was recalled in Santiago that in the very same La Victoria, during a demonstration held to protest against the government on 4 September 1984, French priest Andre Jarlan was shot to death.

Serious Clashes in La Victoria

NC120739 Paris AFP in English 0730 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Santiago, April 12 (AFP) -- Twelve people were injured and about 30 arrested in a national day of protest marked by bomb explosions and numerous clashes between police and demonstrators, according to tolls issued today. Yesterday's protests, the 14th to oppose the regime of General Augusto Pinochet since the spring of 1983, was called by trade unions and opposition parties to protest the murders late last month of three opposition politicians.

The most serious clashes took place in the working-class neighborhood of La Victoria. Eight persons were wounded there when police fired buckshot at demonstrators, witnesses said, and gunfire was heard late into the night. In other working-class neighborhoods on the fringes of Santiago, demonstrators set up roadblocks made of tires and building debris from the earthquakes that ravaged central Chile last month.

Seven bomb attacks were reported, most against public transport vehicles. Damage was reportedly heavy, but there were no casualties.

In the provinces, a powerful bomb seriously damaged the local government headquarters at Concepcion, 525 kms (343 miles) south of Santiago, and police said that five persons had been arrested. Another device planted in Concepcion was defused before it could explode. Earlier, 25 people were arrested in a Santiago cemetery during a funeral service for an opponent of the Pinochet regime, Oscar Fuentes, 19, who was killed by a police officer as he distributed leaflets for yesterday's protest.

The participants in yesterday's day of protest, which was ignored today by the media here, included the main trade union confederation, the National Workers Command, and the Democratic Alliance of centrist and conservative opposition parties.

Opposition Leaders Stage Fast

PY120545 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0431 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 11 Apr (EFE) -- The main political leadrs who oppose the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet have begun a day of fast and reflection that will end at 1500 (1900 GMT) on 12 April.

The fast is being staged at the Chilean Human Rights Commission headquarters. The following leaders have joined the day of fast and reflection: Christian Democratic International President Andres Zaldivar, Christian Democratic Party President Gabriel Valdes, who also belongs to the executive board of the Democratic Alliance -- a multi-party coaltion -- and Jose Sanfuentes, the secretary general of the People's Democratic Movement (MDP).

Leaders of the Socialist bloc and of social and labor organizations have also joined the day of fast. A human rights commission spokesman has told EFE that the political and labor leaders, who began fasting at 1630 (2030 GMT), have reflected on the political situation and that they will probably release a joint communique on 12 April. According to the spokesman, some 230 persons have signed up in the day of fasting and reflection's book.

At 2100 (0100 GMT) the leaders went into the street, lit candles, and sang the national anthem, in keeping with the instructions for the day in support of life being staged today.

Bombings in Santiago, Concepcion

PY120357 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0229 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 11 Apr (EFE) -- At the beginning of the drive for life and against assassinations, in the predawn hours of 11 April, six bombs went off in Santiago and Concepcion. The state news agency ORBE has reported that four of these bombs exploded in Santiago, one in Concepcion, 500 km south of Santiago, and another in Melipilla, 70 km west of Santiago.

The news agency also reported that two other bombs were defused in Santiago, and Radio Chilena, owned by the Archbishopric, stated that another bomb was discovered at the Chilean Mothers Association headquarters in Concepcion and that police personnel detonated the bomb in a safe place.

The Carabineros have reported that two of the bombs in Santiago exploded near street light poles, while the other two damaged parked buses. The bomb in Melipilla also damaged a bus, while the bomb in Concepcion exploded on the railroad bridge across the Bio Bio River while it was being crossed byan empty trolley that was slightly damaged. Later, the police found another bomb at the same place which security personnel detonated, destroying one of the rails.

All these explosive devices were low- and medium-powered, and they went off at the beginning of the drive for life and against assassination called by the National Workers Command (CNT) and echoed by opposition parties. Meanwhile in Santiago, eight people have been injured with pellets fired by the Carabineros into the demonstrators in the La Victoria neighborhood, according to what parish priest Pierre Dubois told EFE.

REPORTAGE ON FEBRES CORDERO MEETING IN NEW YORK

Encounter With George Bush

PA111519 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] New York -- Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero and U.S. Vice President George Bush have discussed current topics during a brief informal meeting at a baseball stadium. Bush, a future Republican candidate for the U.S. presidency, delivered the opening pitch of the new baseball season in the United States.

Meets IDB President

PA101724 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] In the second day of his visit to the United States, President Leon Febres Cordero held important private meetings yesterday in New York. In the morning he met with Antonio Ortiz Mena, president of the IDB, and Fernando Enrique Rondon, new U.S. ambassador to Ecuador. He also signed an important cooperation agreement.

During Febres Cordero's meeting with the IDB president, an agreement was signed in which Ecuador becomes a member of the Inter-American Investment Corporation. The aim of this corporation, which was created at the IDB's initiative, is to help small and medium-sized industry. At the American Society, which is made up of U.S. companies that have investments in Latin America, Febres Cordero stressed the advances in his economic policy. The investors asked the president about Ecuador's situation with regard to investments.

ENVOY TO CUBA ON FEBRES CORDERO-CASTRO TALKS

PA102029 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero and Cuban President Fidel Castro will not discuss ideologies, but will discuss specific current problems, Ecuadoran Ambassador to Cuba Manuel Araujo Hidalgo has said. The official spokesman said in remarks to the news agency IPS that both Ecuador and Cuba are active members of SELA and have repeatedly supported each other in several international forums. Araujo Hidalgo stressed that economics will be an essential topic for discussion in the presidential meeting because of the grave foreign debt situation being experienced by all countries. The need to improve the general relations between the two countries is also as essential topic for discussion.

GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST QUOTA INCREASE AT OPEC MEETING

PA101605 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] Ecuador will ask OPEC for a production quota of 280,000 barrels of crude oil a day in order to maintain its level of economic development, which is essentially based on petroleum revenue. OPEC will hold its second ordinary conference for 1985 in June to analyze subjects of interest to the cartel. The discussion of the controversial topic of the world petroleum market has not been ruled out. Official sources at the Natural Resources and Energy Ministry reported that Ecuador's position in OPEC will be to continue to support the maintenance of the current oil price of $27 a barrel. At the same time, Ecuador will request that it be permitted to produce the aforementioned amount in view of prospects for an increase in national production in 1985. Currently, production totals approximately 262,000 barrels. The Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation is carrying out an aggressive petroleum exploration policy to increase its proven oil reserves that now total approximately 1.2 billion barrels.

INFIGHTING WITHIN COLORADO PARTY DISCLOSED

PY051910 Asuncion SENDERO in Spanish 2 Apr 85 p 5

[Text] A few months ago no one would have thought that a vice president of the National Republican Association, Colorado Party [ANR], could be strongly attacked by a high school student of the Blas Garay Student Center, or that a young university student of the Ignacio A. Pane Student Center could accuse members of the ANR Executive Board of being "manipulators," "fabricators of results," and "lacking any popular support," and so on. However, this is now taking place as a result of the deepening of the ANR internal crisis, which is threatening to seriously divide the party.

Deepening the split which occurred at the last party convention, "activists" and "traditionalists" are facing each other in a merciless struggle for the control of power in the ANR. In the ranks of the "traditionalists" there are well-known political leaders who have been active in the party for a long time and whose names are linked to the history of the party, and some defenders of the traditional principles and ideology of the political party.

In the ranks of the "activists" we find figures who are new in the party, persons who joined the ANR when it was already in power, many people working in public administration, and presidents of the regional grassroots sections, both in the capital and the interior.

The electoral process at the Ignacio A. Pane Center therefore was not a confrontation among the students, but rather, through them, between party chiefs of different factions who tried to gain control over the center as one more link in the internal power chain within the Colorado Party. This could be clearly seen, because, when the "indefinite" suspension of the election became known, the members of the Movement of Authentic Colorado University Students [MACU] promptly accepted the decision, while those of the Movement of Colorado Integration [MIC] harshly criticized it and marched in a column to the residence of Mario Abdo [President Stroessner's private secretary, political secretary of Colorado Executive Board] to whom it seems they had to report on their activities.

Among the Executive Board delegates at the Ignacio A. Pane Center, Minister J. Eugenio Jacquet reportedly supported the "activists" (MIC), with the powerful support of Mario Abdo from a distance. The other delegates, Percio Da Silva and Juan Esteche Fanego, reportedly supported the MACU (the "traditionalists"), closely watched by Ruben Stanley [vice president of the Colorado Party Executive Board].

When the "traditionalists" found that, if there were to be a vote, they would lose the race, they took advantage of their temporary majority among the interventors (Da Silva and Esteche against Jacquet) to postpone the elections indefinitely, thus gaining time before the next battle.

The "traditionalists" possibly gained only a little time through the postponement, because the "activists" have a great following among the student grassroots, with the power to mobilize and with a strong economic backing. In addition, events seem to indicate that the "activists" may have support in the background from the highest political power in the country, a factor which might tip the balance decidedly in their favor in the medium- and long-term.

The only thing that might make the panorama somewhat cloudy is the fact that the "activist" boys, in their enthusiasm, went a little too far when chanting: "It can be felt, it can be felt, Don Mario for president."

We gather that they meant party president...

'VOICE OF COLORADO' SCORES LATEST SENDERO

PY082300 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 4 Apr 85

["The Voice of Colorado" commentary]

[Text] Holy Week is a special time during which the church urges the Christian to reconcile himself with God through the sacraments of confession and communion. This is a time for man to spend the holy days in deepening his spiritual life by attending church and listening to sermons. We thought that the coincidence of the Holy Week with the publication of the week's issue of the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference's weekly SENDERO would provide an occasion for the weekly to have abundant reading material for the Holy Week, material related to the sacrifice of Jesus, the stations of the cross, calvary, the apostles, and the Lord's death and resurrection.

We only thought it would be so, because in reality something else happened, since, believe it or not, both the mouthpiece of the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference and some bad clergymen did, and do nothing, but throw wood on the fire where the communist soup is being cooked, so it will turn out thicker and more tasty. We can find no explanation for the fact that a periodical, which is the vehicle of the opinion of the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference, did not try to be more serious and responsible. Instead it lends itself to the folly of some blabbermouths who perhaps do not have the voice to speak sincerely of lofty and edifying matters, but do have a loud voice to speak useless nonsense, as they do when they speak just to speak.

We must respect one another in all human activities, and all the more in politics because this is an endeavor through which men try to understand each other, to reach agreements in some respects, to better serve higher interests. Even when dissenting in the confrontation of ideas, this respect must be present, because in no case does such respect denote weakness on the part of the adversary, but denotes maturity, and civic consciousness.

In our country though, civic consciousness is not respected by some mouthpieces, such as this organ of the church. With no further consideration, this organ makes its pages available to well-known anti-nationals whose desperate lies about the Colorado Party government we all know very well. In their passionate unrestraint, they show no prespect toward the legally-empowered authorities, and even less toward the country's honest citizens who, for their part, feel unjustly aggravated and mistreated by such misfits.

A sample of this lack of civic consciousness can be found in the terminology used by SENDERO when it makes attempts to attack the government, with its vulgar commentaries, which smack of the gossip of old ladies who delight in besmirching the reputation of others who, because of their positions, deserve more respect and greater consideration from those with a minimum level of maturity. Such respect is also to be expected from those who pose as spokesmen of the church and who, in such a role, should display some moral restraints rather than act like those who perfidiously defame and slander.

Far from being representatives of the church are those who criticize our country, its situation, which everyone knows is the most promising in all respects, and talk of corruption, torture, and persecutions, which only exist in their sick minds. All of this is done in an abusive torrent of profanity which is in line with the campaign of lies and slander which has been unleashed against the national government, a campaign aimed at deceiving the local and foreign public, which makes no sense to people who pride themselves on being respectful of civic consciousness and democratic principle. Don't these liars who distort our peace, progress and well-being realize that with such a despicable attitude, which reveals their poor qualifications in matters of a civic and political nature, they are the ones who are destroying, putting themselves to ridicule, and losing the respect and trust of the people whose interests they allegedly defend. They forget that the same people have long ago classified them as unworthy offspring of the native fatherland and mercenaries who have sold themselves out to anti-Paraguayan interests.

No doubt the mouthpieces of opposition minorities, such as SENDERO, are not only liars, but are also rude, because their ammunition is empty of truth and reason. They at no time present the reality of present-day Paraguay, because our reality is that of a democracy without communism, of beneficial peace, and of increasing progress that can be seen at all levels of the national life. And the alleged corruption, torture, and persecution only exist in the sick minds of those bad Paraguayans, bastard sons of our fatherland. They are rude, liars to the point of being scandalous, and disrespectful, because they are incapable of wholesome, loyal, and honest practices in politics. These despicable spokesmen are destroying themselves, boiling in their own juices, and if we sometimes speak in these terms in order to reciprocate their baseless attacks as they deserve, it is only because reason is on our side, and we are in the position to accuse them and to condemn them with all the force of truth, yet without descending to the lower world of defamation and slander.

The Paraguayan Episcopal Conference must take upon itself the task of cleaning up its mouthpiece, to instill it with more civic responsibility if SENDERO wants to loyally and sincerely confront the powerful Colorado Party and the patriotic government which represents it, by the will of a broad and overwhelming majority, in the conduct of the nation's destiny. Reason and truth have no need for lies and uncouth terminology to gain the advantage, and needs, even less, much less, coarse and subversive slander.

SHINING PATH ATTEMPTS TO DISCOURAGE VOTERS

Raids State School

PY120004 Paris AFP in Spanish 1556 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Lima, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Police sources reported here today that Shining Path group broke into a state school in the city of Cerro de Pasco, 317 km southeast of Lima, where after threatening with execution any person who dared to vote in Sunday's elections, the terrorists beat up two teachers in front of their students. The group, made up of 30 young men and armed with sophisticated weapons, yesterday surprised the 15 teachers and 1,500 students of the National Commerce School, who were forced to shout slogans in favor of the armed struggle and against the elections and the candidates.

Two of the teachers who refused to shout the slogans were brutally beaten and dragged around the school ground, and left in critical condition. According to a police source, the rifles carried by the attackers had multiple barrels capable of firing 200 rounds per minute. It was also reported that thousands of leaflets have appeared in several towns threatening the citizens with death, in an effort to prevent them from participating in the elections.

Moreover, two policemen were attacked in Lima yesterday by terrorists who fired from a moving pickup truck in the district of El Rimac. The policemen hit the ground and fired back, forcing the attackers to flee. The police in Trujillo, 412 km north of Lima, have reported that some 15 boxes containing more than 3,000 sticks of dynamite were stolen yesterday by presumed terrorists in a daring attack on the La Victoria mine, in the province of Santiago de Chuco.

The energy and mines minister today reported that the damage caused by the destruction of power pylons now amounts to approximately 200 billion soles (some $24 million), according to a recent evaluation. However, he did not reveal the number of pylons the terrorists have blown up in the past 5 years. The minister stated that a good part of the losses will be recovered, because most of the pylons were insured by a company in London.

Cuts Off Peasants' Fingers

PY120725 Paris AFP in Spanish 2017 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Lima, 11 Apr (AFP) -- The Shining Path, an insurgent Maoist group operating in the Peruvian Andean region, has ordered that those peasants who participate in the 14 April general elections will have their fingers cut off, it was learned here today.

The terrorists, who have publicly condemned the elections, have attacked peasants in two different places in Ayacucho Department, some 500 km southeast of Lima, and cut off their fingers with machetes.

One of the attacks was staged in Churcampa, 120 km north of Ayacucho, where the terrorists beat and mutilated two youths, Santiago Huacho and Antonio Moris, both 18. The two youths, each of whom lost two fingers, were taken to the Ayacucho hospital today.

In the town of Chungui, 200 km northeast of Ayacucho and some 500 km southeast of Lima, another terrorist band mutilated three peasants.

It was reported that the guerillas stopped the three peasants and asked them whether they would vote in the 14 April elections. After the peasants answered affirmatively, the terrorists seized their electoral cards (identification and voter's cards) and then cut off their fingers.

In several places in Ayacucho and in other regions where the Shining Path is strong, the guerrillas have stopped travelers and rendered their electoral cards useless by painting the hammer and sickle in red ink on them. These incidents are the first reported cases involving physical aggression.

The Shining Path has issued proclamations calling on the people to abstain or to cast invalid votes, on the grounds that the elections will only serve to strengthen a bourgeois regime that must be destroyed.

STRIKES, RIOTS OCCUR IN PORT CITY OF CHIMBOTE

PY120230 Paris AFP in Spanish 0034 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Lima, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Severe riots occurred today in the port of Chimbote, 450 km north of Lima, where a general 24-hour strike was staged demanding solutions to labor-management disputes, police sources reported.

Angry demonstrators stoned shop windows, burned tires in the middle of streets, and clashed with market vendors early this evening. The clashes with merchants resulted from attempts to loot the stores.

The police arrested approximately 50 rioters and Wenceslao Risco, secretary general of the Ancash Departmental Labor Federation. A store that sells motor oil, a bank branch, and the Riviera Hotel were severely damaged, the sources reported.

The stoppage was staged in demand for a solution to the causes of the strike, which the workers of the fishing industry and of the Chimbote iron and steel mill have been carrying out since early April. Furthermore, the labor unions want several regional problems solved.

COSTA RICA

MEXICAN LEADER, GUTIERREZ ON REAGAN PROPOSAL

PA111415 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Excerpt] President Luis Alberto Monge has said that Mexico supports any dialogue proposal. During a telephone conversation held yesterday morning between President Monge and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, the latter said that his government supports any dialogue proposal for the region, even if it comes from the United States.

Monge told Shlaudeman that the Mexican president had authorized him to inform him about the Mexican position. Monge added that President De la Madrid called him to thank him for the way in which the Costa Rican authorities handled the arrest of the band of drug traffickers headed by Rafael Caro Quintero.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez acknowledged that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace proposal is compatible with the Contadora Group's objectives. He added that the Costa Rican Government expects the Nicaraguan regime to change its attitude and meditate on this proposal which, like Contadora, seeks peace in the region and national unification.

Gutierrez also noted that it seems strange and contradictory that while the Managua regime rejects this peace proposal, it insists on continuing its talks with the United States in Manzanillo.

RELATIVES SAID TO RECEIVE DEATH THREATS

PA111350 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] It was learned yesterday afternoon that authorities have had to intensify the security for President Monge's daughter, Lena Monge. These measures have been taken in view of the death threats received against President Monge's relatives following the arrest and deportation of Rafael Caro Guintero. In addition, it was learned that authorities have adopted strict security measures to protect other government officials for the same reasons, although their names were not disclosed. Public Security Minister Benjamin Piza said that he has not received any threats and that, therefore, he is only receiving routine protection.

CENTRAL BANK DENIES KEEPING CARO JEWELS

PA111420 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Important Central Bank of Costa Rica officials have denied that the jewels seized last Friday from the Mexican drug trafficking gang headed by drug boss Rafael Caro Quintero were deposited in that institution. According to the narcotics department of the Judicial Investigation Agency, these jewels have been valued at $2.5 Million and include diamonds, emeralds, and amethysts encrusted with gold.

The bank officials made the clarification because some news sources have reported as an established fact that the valuables of the drug traffickers were under the protection of the bank. The bank officials were emphatic in stating that the functions of the bank do not include guarding jewels, especially if these are jewels confiscated from drug traffickers.

The treasurer of the bank said he is concerned over the news reports on this because they are false and because making the bank incorrectly responsible for caring for the valuables of Rafael Caro Quintero negatively affects the good banking services provided to both local and foreign clients daily.

EL SALVADOR

MILITARY PREVENTS GUERRILLAS PRESS CONFERENCES

PA102053 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Apr 85 pp 2, 17

[Text] According to the Armed Forces, 4th Infantry Brigade troops foiled a press conference that the FMLN was scheduled to hold in Dulce Nombre de Maria, Chalatenango Department, causing the death of seven extremists. The press conference was announced to disclose that the FMLN was going to release 10 soldiers it is holding, but the local and foreign reporters who went to the town found regular troops instead of guerrillas. The first clash occurred shortly before the time scheduled for the meeting. Then, there was a pause but fighting resumed for 2 hours and continued until the guerrillas withdrew to other positions. Two Salvadoran Air Force helicopters flew over the area on reconnaissance flights and to support the 4th Infantry Brigade troops in their advance.

A clandestine radio station said at noon yesterday that the FMLN inflicted eight casualties on the Army ranks, but the Armed Forces Press Committee denied this stating that the dead were members of the FMLN-FDR. The 4th Infantry Brigade only had two soldiers wounded and they were taken to the El Paraiso Garrison where they are recovering.

About 15 days ago, a similar incident occurred when a "commander," who identified himself as Salvador Guerra, announced a press conference in San Antonio near Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department. When the reporters arrived, they found 4th Infantry Brigade troops because Guerra had fled.

URBAN GUERRILLA GROUP ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

PA101912 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] In a communique sent to our Press Department, the urban rebels of the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Front denied today that the four individuals captured in Miramontes neighborhood and accused of killing Colonel Ricardo Aristides Cienfuegos and National Conciliation Party [PCN] Deputy Hector Tulio Flores. [sentence as heard] According to the urban guerrillas' communique, the accusations against those arrested is within the framework of the overall strategy of a counterinsurgency war designed, directed, and supervised by imperialism. According to an official report, 4 weeks ago, the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] confirmed the arrest of four individuals who confessed to the actions.

In the press communique, the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Front denied that its members occupied or are using the installations of the National University as Coprefa said when it reported the arrest of four people said to be members of the front and accused of being responsible for the deaths of 20 people. In its communique, the front maintained that an effort is being made to involve the university to create conditions for future attacks on professors, students, and university workers.

According to Coprefa, the detainees said that they captured a detective inside the university and that they later killed him. However, the urban guerrillas are denying this in their communique today.

VENCEREMOS ALLEGES CLASH WITH HONDURAN TROOPS

PA120105 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Your attention, close attention: Honduran Army troops have entered Salvadoran territory in Morazan Department. They have tortured people in Nahuaterique, in northern Morazan Department, and have stolen property. The report Radio Venceremos is receiving right now indicates that on Monday, 8 April, at 1600 Honduran Army soldiers entered our territory in Nahuaterique and looted several homes. Six Nahuaterique residences were completely looted. The Honduran Army soldiers stole every single belonging of the people living there.

We have been informed that six persons were tortured by Honduran Army troops. These people are Eugenio Amaya, 50; Castelo Argueta, 17; Florinda Matero, 30; Jose Orfilio Argueta, 23; Candido Quintero, 32; and five minors who were abused and tortured by Honduran Army troops who entered last Monday in Morazan Department. [figures as heard]

The report adds that other people of the area lost their humble belongings to the Honduran soldiers. The report also indicates that these people have left their homes because the Honduran troops threatened to kill them.

FMLN units have clashed with the Honduran Army troops that entered Morazan Department. We have been informed that last Tuesday Honduran troops again entered Salvadoran territory. This happened at 1100 in Nahuaterique, Morazan Department. The clash between FMLN patrol forces and Honduran Army troops lasted 30 minutes. It took place in the Los Naranjos village, near Nahuaterique. Our companeros from the FMLN unit seriously wounded a Honduran soldier. We repeat, one Honduran Army soldier was seriously wounded in Salvadoran territory, near Nahuaterique, in northern Morazan Department.

The report adds that the Honduran troops have instilled fear among the villagers of Nahuaterique, telling them that if they don't leave their homes, the troops will return to murder them. We just received this report from the northern region of Morazan Department. This has been another criminal action of the Honduran Army, which continues carrying out repressive activities in the northern area of the Salvadoran Department of Morazan. Radio Venceremos will continue reporting on events in Nahuaterique as information is received.

GUERRILLAS SABOTAGE ELECTRIC POWER LINES

Tower in Usulutan

PA100316 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] On 5 April, units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] at approximately 2200 destroyed a high-tension tower near El Jocote canton, Mercedes Umana jurisdiction, Usulutan Department. This action left a large sector of the eastern territory without electricity. On the same day, BRAZ units sabotaged power line posts on the road from Usulutan to Santiago de Maria.

Activity on Military Highway

PA110454 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Radio Venceremos has begun to receive reports on various sabotage actions. One of these reports states that on Tuesday, 9 April, a BRAZ guerrilla unit destroyed several power lines that supply San Francisco Gotera with electricity. This activity was carried out on the Military Highway.

FMLN LIFTS MOVEMENT BAN IN VILLA DEL ROSARIO

PA111347 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Attention residents of the Villa del Rosario area: Due to the withdrawal of the dictatorship's troops, we are suspending our order not to travel on roads and paths in this area. This measure is hereby suspended. We repeat: We are herby suspending the measure that urged you not to travel on the roads and paths in this area because the Lenca Battalion has fled from the region in disarray.

CIVILIANS WARNED TO STAY OFF MORAZAN STREETS

PA111404 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Radio Venceremos calls on all the residents of (Las Jitas Arriba) and (Las Jitas Abajo) cantons, Chilanga jurisdiction, Morazan Department. Attention, close attention, to the residents of the (Las Jitas Arriba) and (Las Jitas Abajo) cantons, Chilanga jurisdiction: Do not use the streets and paths of these cantons while the puppet Army remains in that area. We call on the residents of (Las Jitas Arriba) and (Las Jitas Abajo) cantons, Chilanga jurisdiction, to remain in their homes while the enemy remains in those cantons. Our forces are laying mines along the paths the puppet troops will cross. Radio Venceremos will advise you once this order is rescinded. We repeat, do not use the streets or the paths of these cantons while the puppet Army remains in the area.

GUATEMALA

ANDRADE ON VISIT BY U.S. ENVOY SHLAUDEMAN

PA111556 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] On Monday, two U.S. Congressmen visited Guatemala City. Last night U.S. special ambassador Harry Shlaudeman arrived here unexpectedly. Next week another U.S. congressional delegation is expected. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran commented on the visit by special ambassador Shlaudeman.

[Begin recording] [Andrade] Shlaudeman came to exchange views on the peace sessions within the framework of the Contadora Group. He also came to give an in-depth report on President Reagan's proposal for a political dialogue between the Sandinist government and the insurgent forces in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] peace document presented by Ronald Reagan for peace in Central America?

[Andrade] He delivered a copy of the proposal made in Washington by President Reagan to the Guatemalan head of state.

The proposal was reported in all of the news media. President Reagan is in fact proposing the start of a dialogue among the diverse forces through the mediation of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church. In that respect, I believe that the United States would be prepared to end the aid that the Reagan administration is requesting. If the U.S. Congress approves the aid, it would be used solely -- as mentioned in the Reagan statement -- for humanitarian purposes. As long as this [word indistinct] would result in a political relaxation or, in fact, in democratization in Nicaragua. [end recording]

OFFICIALS UNVEIL DECREES TO RESTRUCTURE TAXES

PA102049 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2350 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] Today the Guatemalan Government unveiled decrees and laws which involved tax restructuring to increase fiscal revenues. At a press conference held today, Finance Minister Leonardo Figueroa Villate and Bank of Guatemala President Oscar Alvarez made the announcement. Minister Figueroa Villate said that with the fiscal restructuring, the state will collect an additional 113 million quetzals -- which according to the official exchange rate is at par with the U.S. dollar -- from May to December of this year, and 200 million quetzals during 1986. The minister added that the objective of these measures is to stabilize the economy in order to be able to obtain international financing and increase domestic development.

The measures aimed at stabilizing the economy include a specific, temporary tax on coffee exports to countries that do not belong to the International Coffee Organization; that is, coffee exported above Guatemala's quota. There is also a 15-percent selective tax on the consumption of products labeled as luxury items that are manufactured in Guatemala or imported from other Central American countries with free trade as detailed in a list to be disclosed tomorrow. Moreover, there is a 50-percent tax on products imported from outside Central America, or products from this area when these products do not have a free trade status. The measures also increase existing taxes on the consumption of alcoholic beverages and beer, and also includes soft drinks. It adds items [words indistinct] tax on bonded paper and a stamp tax.

The law to promote the poultry industry, as well as the value added tax, VAT, law, to cover items which were not previously included were also amended. These items will now be subject to the VAT. The export of cardamom is now taxed. This product has achieved a certain level of development and marketing. The operations to exchange foreign currency on the parallel market are subject to taxation. In addition, rules concerning the operation of currency exchange offices were drafted, including provisions regarding an abuse of the exchange rate [delito cambiario] for those that do not comply with these rules. Nevertheless, the finance minister said that the new tax measures do not affect staples that are produced in Guatemala or imported from other Central American countries. To justify the new measures, Figueroa Villate said that the monetary, exchange, and credit measures issued as of 1982 have been subject to misunderstandings, such as an excessive increase in the exchange of quetzals for U.S. dollars on the parallel market. However, the minister stated that the established tax system has not failed, as the fiscal deficit has been lowered from 7.8 percent to 3.2 percent.

PRIVATE SECTOR WITHDRAWS FROM ECONOMY COMMITTEE

PA102017 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Excerpt] The Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial. and Financial Associations Coordinating Committee [Ccaacif], which represents the private sector, has broken ties of cooperation with the central government.

One of the reasons for this action is that the de facto regime did not take the Ccaacif into account in preparing a new tax reform bill that will affect all sectors equally. Sources closely linked to the Ccaacif said last night that as a result of government policies regarding the country's economic problems, the private sector prefers to abstain from participating in a so-called mini-committee, formed to work with the government economic cabinet in an effort to lead the country to a better future, in response to the unprecedented crisis that is affecting the Guatemalans.

The Ccaacif stated its knowledge of the government decision to establish a selective consumer tax, a measure that will deeply worsen the economic recession and its diverse social consequences. As if this were not enough, members of the Ccaacif told our reporters that the private sector thinks that the de facto regime is preparing to implement a 25-percent increase in income taxes, with all of the negative implications therein. According to unofficial reports the Ccaacif resolved, by mandate of its board of directors, to withdraw from the so-called mini-committee because it does not agree with the government's policies . The decision was also made known to General Majia Victores at the end of last month by way of a telegram sent to the presidential palace.

Alfonso Reimers, Ccaacif acting president, in his message to the head of state said: We are greatly concerned because despite your good intentions of having the private sector in conjunction with the public sector discuss national problems to solve the economic crisis, the committees created for this mission have not achieved any effective results, even after several meetings. The message to Mejia Victores that despite the fact that this committee has reached many agreements on concrete measures to resolve specific and urgent problems, no action has been taken by the public entities represented on the committee. The businessmen regret the worsening of the crisis, and Alfonso Reimers, on behalf of the Ccaacif, informed the head of state that the committee in charge of reviewing the national economic situation during 1975, has not yet been informed of the 1985 budget figures nor the results of the discussions between the National Monetary Board, the Finance Ministry, and the Bank of Guatemala, and much less of the possible measures for solving the crisis. Finally, the telegram signed by the acting Ccaacif president and dated 26 March stated the following:

We regret that the serious crisis is worsening. We think this is not in keeping with the good intentions you have repeatedly demonstrated.

HONDURAS

SUAZO SUPPORTS REAGAN PROPOSAL FOR NICARAGUA

PA101437 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 10 Apr 85 p 2

[Letter form President Roberto Suazo Cordova to U.S. President Ronald Reagan -- date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency, Mr Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, Washington D.C.

Mr President: I have recieved your kind letter of 4 April of this year. In this letter you informed me about the efforts the U.S. Government is making to strengthen democratic institutions in Nicaragua by supporting the call for a dialogue between the opposition forces and the Sandinist government with the mediation of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church.

Since June 1983, when my country actively participated in the preparation of the document known as "Basis for Peace in Central America," Honduras has firmly supported all actions aimed at ending the armed conflicts that some Central American states are enduring.

This can be done through national reconciliation activities that would lead, through dialogues and the free manifestation of the people's will, to the establishment of truly democratic, pluralist, and representative institutions in all the states in the region.

In this regard, your initiative is of great significance because it supports negotiated solutions for the Central American crisis and at the same time backs the Nicaraguan people's efforts to have peace and democracy. I thank you very much for informing me about the actions that your government will be taking in the immediate future. I want to reiterate to you that the government over which I preside will not cease making efforts to secure a global, regional agreement that can be fully verified, as established in the document of the 21 objectives approved by the Central American countries in the framework of the Contadora negotiations. In this regard, my government shares and supports your important proposals. Please accept, Mr President, my congratulations for this decision. I hereby reiterate my personal esteem.

[Signed] Roberto Suazo Cordova, constitutional president of Honduras

GENERAL LOPEZ REYES COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT CRISIS

PA120109 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 11 Apr 85 p 31

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The national crisis, provoked by the confrontation between politicians of the three branches of state, has led "to a lack of respect for the Constitution of the Republic," according to a statement by Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Walter Lopez Reyes which was broadcast by a radio station.

Despite this situation, the top-level military leader said that the crisis "has not been discussed by the Armed Forces; we cannot become involved in it because this is an unfortunate political matter. There must be a way to solve it. However, I repeat, the Armed Forces could hardly do anything about the matter right now." After acknowledging the institutional crisis, General Walter Lopez said: "We will closely follow developments so long as order prevails; otherwise, we will abide by what is stated in the Constitution of the Republic."

"We have observed several people insulting other people and violating the Constitution and its laws," the Armed Forces commander in chief emphasized. "There is a possibility that the situation will change, take a turn for the worse; therefore it is necessary to advocate peace." Despite the fact that the confrontation between those striving to take over power in the state will not be easily solved, the highest officer of the Armed Forces issued a call to the politicians, saying that several virtues are necessary and that our government officials must resort to them in order to attain the most favorable solution and achieve the people's welfare.

EDITORIAL VIEWS CONGRESS' NEW ELECTIONS LAW

PA101624 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Apr 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Internal Elections and a Historical Responsibility"]

[Text] The National Congress has approved a law establishing internal elections within political parties as the only procedure to choose the presidential candidates, as well as candidates for designates, deputies, and members of municipal councils.

At a historical session, which was almost boycotted due to a power outage but continued under candlelight, the legislature definitively introduced this democratic mechanism that has revolutionized the Honduran electoral system. With the new procedure, citizens are guaranteed direct participation in the fundamental decisions to elect national authorities and leaders.

In the midst of the drama that has characterized congressional actions during the past few days, the results of the voting for this law was highly significant. A total of 53 deputies from the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH], the National Party of Honduras [PNH], the Innovation and Unity Party [PINU], and the Honduran Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] voted in favor; 25 deputies supporting President Suazo Cordova voted against; and there were 3 abstentions from the 4 PNH deputies committed to Suazo Cordova's line.

The PNH abstentions are particularly significant because they could indicate a significant move by this pro-Suazo group, in view of the nation's extraordinary support of the legislative branch in its formidable struggle to clean up the administration and simultaneously take a qualitative step in favor of democracy in our country. If this were the case, it would be improbable as well as absurd for President Roberto Suazo Cordova to fulfill his promise to resort to the veto as a means of hampering the patriotic actions of the National Congress. This would further aggravate the political atmosphere that needs a good dose of responsibility and generosity on the part of the executive branch.

The national enthusiasm over the position assumed by the National Congress during this institutional crisis cannot be hidden. The upright attitude assumed by the deputies confronting the official line, particularly by Efrain Bu Giron, president of the National Congress, is noteworthy, especially their ability to overcome obstacles and dangers that have threatened the Honduran institutional government.

Likewise, the Honduran people have valued the calm, impartial attitude assumed by the Honduran Armed Forces who have maintained a reasonable position representative of the general interests, avoiding irrational attempts to take advantage of the situation to establish a dictatorship similar to the old style that prevailed in our unfortunate Central America during World War II.

For the past 34 years in Honduras, the legislative body has not shown real independence in relation to the executive branch. It was precisely under the liberal government headed by Vicente Mejia Colindres, a great democrat, that the National Congress acted with absolute integrity for the last time in this century.

The submissiveness of the legislative branch to the executive branch that has prevailed since the dictatorship headed by General Tiburcio Carias Sandino has been a determining factor in Honduras' backwardness in all aspects. The situation has developed into the current crisis, characterized by an incredible level of political immorality, uncouthness, and willfulness on the part of top government leaders, and by generalized administrative corruption.

Thus, the importance of the actions taken by the National Congress, as they mark a historical milestone, is that our fatherland has recovered an essential mechanism for restructuring its institutional life. However, this process of rectification has just begun. This makes it equally important that deputies of the various political factions proceed with the same responsibility when establishing the rules for the internal electoral system.

There is an erroneous concept in the draft bill on reforms to the electoral law that was introduced at the National Congress prior to the decree approved last Thursday. This draft bill will probably be used as the basis for the special law regulating the internal elections. If this erroneous concept prevails, the old vices of the caudillo leadership would remain within the traditional parties by leaving the direction and control of the internal electoral process in their hands. The only way to ensure liberty, authentic participation, honesty, and effective internal elections is by leaving the National Electoral Tribunal in charge of directing and controlling them in accordance with the Constitution, which gives this tribunal the authority to coordinate everything related to electoral activities and procedures.

Leaving the handling of internal elections in the hands of each party's electoral commissions would be returning to the same practice of manipulation and fraud, losing the historical opportunity to give Honduran democracy a profound republican content and a solid foundation for the future.

NICARAGUA

PRESIDENT ORTEGA READS LETTER ON REAGAN PROPOSAL

PA121317 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text of letter sent by President Daniel Ortega to "the presidents of the Contadora Group countries and heads of government and political leaders of Latin America and Europe" dated 11 April, read by President Daniel Ortega; place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] Managua, 11 April; For peace; all against aggression.

President and friend: I am pleased to address you to refer to the proposal made public on 4 April by U.S. President Ronald Reagan with regard to Nicaragua.

In the Nicaraguan Government's view, President Reagan's proposal constitutes not only an ultimatum and a dictatorial interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country but also an express, broad recognition that the U.S. Government is carrying out a war of aggression against Nicaragua through a mercenary army organized, directed, and armed by that government.

The U.S. Government has once again demonstrated that it promotes and executes an openly interventionist policy of force and that through continued illicit conduct it seeks to impose its own solutions outside international law, without any respect for the most sacred rights of the peoples of Nicaragua and Central America.

Based on this consistent, systematic rejection of international law, the U.S. Government has blocked and rejected all of the means for a peaceful solution to the regional crisis, including the International Court of Justice, the Manzanillo talks, and the Contadora Group efforts. The U.S. Government's aims to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government and destroy the Sandinist revolution are evident. On 4 April Presidnet Reagan presented a virtual ultimatum on the basis of which if the Nicaraguan Government does not adjust its domestic and foreign policy to the dictates of the U.S. Government, that government will consider itself free to increase its war of aggression against Nicaragua without excluding armed intervention, as has been repeatedly stated by high-ranking representatives of the U.S. Administration, including President Reagan.

Nicaragua cannot accept the ultimatum presented by President Reagan nor can it accept the interventionist policy of aggression, threats, and coercions that seek to make Nicaragua give up its sovereignty, self-determination, and independence.

Acceptance of that policy of force would mean not only reducing our country to a neocolonial or protectorate situation, but also recognizing the failure of international law and the triumph of an illegal policy that would seriously break the current international juridical order and therefore the entire system that is being built with such difficulty to better guarantee international peace, security, and the rights of all nations. To accept the ultimatum would be accepting the law of the jungle in international relations and endangering the future sovereignty of the nations of Latin America and the Third World.

As part of its warlike strategy and its determination to isolate Nicaragua, the U.S. Government once again wants to involve countries of the Contadora Group and other Latin American and European nations so they will endorse its interventionist and warmongering plan.

Nicaragua is confident that the Contadora Group countries will firmly maintain the principles that gave rise to and are the foundations of that Latin American initiative of peace, especailly nonintervention and the rejection of the use and the threat of force; that is, the basic principles upon which international peace and security are based. A ratification of the validity of those principles is even more necessary since the so-called Reagan plan gravely threatens the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

To his refusal to accept the September 1984 Contadora Document, the U.S. President now wants to add, with the threat of a deadline, his own solutions of force and to thus liquidate the prospects for peace and the Contadora negotiations process. Since the triumph of the revolution in 1979, the Nicaraguan Government has been characterized by its efforts to promote dialogue and a negotiated solution of international controversies. On many occasions it has presented various peace initiatives that do not need to be recalled at this time. The framework for all of those initiatives has always been strict respect for the norms and principles of the UN Charter and international law. particularly respect for the principles of nonintervention, sovereignty, independence, the territorial integrity of states, and the peaceful solution of controversies.

Our country has been especially careful to faithfully comply with all these principles and to demand that they be strictly adhered to with regard to Nicaragua. In this sense, we have always considered all efforts aimed at attaining peaceful and negotiated solutions to the regional crisis, including direct dialogue between the governments involved, demanding only respect for international laws, as positive.

This is why our government does not want our honorable rejection of the ultimatum presented by President Reagan to be interpreted as a rejection of dialogue. We have always said we favor dialogue as the first resource that must always be sought to resolve conflicting situations and guarantee international peace and security. Therefore, we take the opportunity to first reiterate our decided support and backing for the Contadora negotiating process, reasserting our firm conviction that this Latin American-based process is a real alternative for peace that should be preserved and strengthened, and second, our call to the United States to immediately resume the bilateral talks at Manzanillo, which that country unilaterally broke off. The Manzanillo talks should be used to establish the bases for the normalization of relations between Nicaragua and the United States. That is where the United States can present its proposals, while Nicaragua is also ready to present its own peace plan, so that a truly serious discussion that will complement the Contadora effort can begin.

At this time, Latin America must be united to defend on of the great principles that arose from this continent: nonintervention.

Any other stance would bring about the final collapse of the Contadora Group's efforts, a deep regression, and serious harm not only to the sovereignty, self-determination, and independence of the Nicaraguan people, but also to all Latin American peoples.

In the certainty that Latin American unity will make possible the triumph of peace with honor,

My warmest regards

OFFICIALS, MEDIA COMMENT ON REAGAN PEACE PLAN

Nunez Tellez: 'Dirty Trick'

PA111453 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] Ronald Reagan's latest statements regarding an alleged "peace plan" for Nicaragua are nothing but "the reiteration that he will maintain his aggressive position against our country," said Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, FSLN National Directorate member, yesterday.

Tellez, who is also president of the National Assembly, warned that the current visits by U.S. officials and personalities, including congressmen and senators, are related to the debate on the approval of $14 million for the Nicaraguan mercenaries that are financed and directed by the CIA. Therefore, he said, "everything is centered on obtaining approval for those millions" and Reagan's position "is part of the offensive against the U.S. Congress and sectors which refuse to accept his pressures."

In addition, last night Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said that Reagan's so-called "peace plan" is nothing but "a dirty trick to continue the war" against the Nicaraguan people. He reasserted that if the United States is really interested in achieving peace it must return to the bilateral negotiations in Manzanillo that were interrupted last February.

D'Escoto recalled that the Reagan administration's goal is to defeat the Nicaraguan Government or force it to beg for mercy. He rejected any idea which implies that this country would hold a dialogue with the counterrevolution if Washington stops its economic aid. "If the United States stop its aid, there would simply be no more counterrevolutionaries," he stressed.

Aimed at U.S. Congress

PA101809 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] National Assembly President Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez has commented that despite U.S. intentions to obtain more aid for the counterrevolution and allegedly overthrow this legally constituted government, there is a great deal of world solidarity with Nicaragua.

[Begin recording] At present, anything done is aimed at getting the approval for the (?$14 million). But at the same time Democratic congressmen are involved in efforts to prevent this approval. I also believe that all international efforts -- those of Latin American countries, and Europe -- are focused not only on averting intervention in Nicaragua, but on preventing the approval of these (?$14 million) as well. Reagan's most recent statements are within the frameowrk of the offensive against [words indistinct] and those sectors that are resisting their pressure. No maneuver or scheme is being spared in the attainment of these goals.

Consequently, Reagan's position should not be interpreted as a change in behavior, but as a reiteration of [words indistinct] regarding Contadora, we hope to continue to strengthen it and that [words indistinct] positive aspects. [end recording]

Regarding the country's domestic policy, Nunez Tellez said that there are certain political maneuvers being carried out by Independent Liberal Party members who threatened to withdraw from the National Assembly if their opinion about the Constitution of the Republic is not accepted. He said that the general assembly statute, already approved, is being studied and reviewed by the president of the Republic so it can be published in the gazette.

Humberto Ortega Comments

PA112311 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2130 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Excerpts] During the inauguration of the new General Ramon Raudales Unconventional Warfare Battalion and a company and battalion of border troops at the (Mojonte), Ocotal, Heroes and Martyrs School, Humberto Ortega, Nicaraguan defense minister and commander of the revolution, reiterated today: We will never negotiate with the enemies of the fatherland and our independence. Ortega, who is also Sandinist People's Army [EPS] commander in chief and national chief of the Sandinist People's Militias, said: We are willing to negotiate today with those who represent this mercenary policy, namely the Reagan administration, in Manzanillo.

Regarding the peace plan that President Reagan wants to impose upon us, Ortega said:

[Begin recording] I hereby reiterate that we will never negotiate with the enemies of the homeland and independence. We also reiterate that we are willing to talk today with those responsible for this mercenary policy, namely the U.S. Administration, in the framework of Manzanillo. We will speak with those responsible for this situation, not with the puppets and lackeys of these warmongering and aggressor gentlemen. Does this mean that Nicaragua does not want peace? No, quite the contrary. To maintain this firm stance means that Nicaragua wants peace for Nicaragua and all of Central America. (?Everything is clear). If Reagan does not alter his course, what should we do? Should we allow ourselves to be blackmailed by his policy of force? Should we kneel before Reagan and ask for forgiveness because of his ultimatum? Should we tremble because of his threat to continue aiding the mercenaries, when we are crushing them despite all the aid they have received? Should we tremble -- we don't want that to happen -- if in desperation they dare to intervene with their troops and Marines?

We will never tremble over threats to continue supporting the mercenaries [words indistinct]. The Latin American spirit is here in Nicaragua. The responsibility for Nicaragua and its people's dignity lies in our arms and rifles. We are willing to face the greatest danger in order to reamin free, worthy, independent, and Nicaragua. Mr Reagan, we are willing to face the greatest dangers. But Nicaragua will continue to be Sandinist, independent, revolutionary, anti-imperialist, of the poor, for the poor, and on behalf of the poor. [end recording]

UNAG President Nunez Remarks

PA111440 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Excerpt] The so-called peace plan submitted by President Ronald Reagan has caused unrest and indignation among small and medium-size producers throughout the country.

Some producers have called the plan a mockery of the Nicaraguan Government and people. Others say it is absurd and should not be even considered. We are going to listen to Companero Daniel Nunez, president of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen, UNAG, these are his statements:

[Begin recording] This proposal can only come from the backward mentality of Reagan. First of all he is unaware of the suffering and mourning of the Nicaraguans and their outrage because of all the crimes committed by the counterrevolution, which everyone knows is financed by his government. As representative of the UNAG, I can say that we not only reject the proposal, but we condemn these maneuvers as well. Besides, we are ready and just like Sandino rejected the Espino Negro Agreement and raised his firearms of liberation to expel the Americans, we are determined to continue fighting and facing whatever we must to obtain peace in a dignified manner. At no time are we, as producers, going to sit down or abandon the struggle. [end recording]

TV Commentary

PA101732 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Last week the President of the United States pompously announced a so-called peace plan for Nicaragua. Putting aside the moral issues that hinder that country's making any peace proposals, as it is the aggressor country, the truth is that the plan is merely a coarse threat to force Nicaragua to surrender. In essence, it is an attempt to force the legal and legitimate Nicaraguan Government to put aside its arms and negotiate with the counterrevolutionaries, and call for new elections from which -- it is supposed -- a democratic and of course anticommunist and pro-imperialist government will emerge. In exchange, Reagan offers a 60-day truce, and promises to use the funds that Congress is denying him to feed, dress, and provide medical attention to the counterrevolutionaries.

Because they are so absurd, Reagan's proposals could even be considered comical, but reality forces us to take anything that affects our fatherland seriously. Reagan is desperate. He knows that the request for $14 million for the contras has no possibility of being approved by Congress, and that this will mean a rejection of his interventionist policies. Therefore, to prevent a rejection by Congress, Reagan seems willing to give up, for 2 months, his attack on Nicaragua in exchange for our government's surrendering its sovereignty over our fatherland. Reagan knows that Nicaragua will never accept his proposals or surrender to his threats, so he is trying to confuse the U.S. and international public opinions, and to hinder the Contadora Group's efforts. Our government and international public opinion have already responded by soundly rejecting Reagan's proposals. Now, it is up to the Central American and Contadora Group countries to take over the search for peace for our region, with historical responsibility. They will have the opportunity this week in Panama.

PRESIDENT ORTEGA MEETS VISITING U.S. CONGRESSMEN

PA111611 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the president of the Republic, met yesterday with a delegation of U.S. congressmen headed by Democrat Edward Markey.

The following also participated in the meeting with the Nicaraguan leader: Retired Navy Colonel John Buchanan; Representatives Timothy Wirth, Olympia Snowe, and John M. Spratt; and Mary McCrory, Jeffrey Price, and Stansfield Turner.

BISHOP SHAEFFER WOUNDED IN GUERRILLA AMBUSH

PA112218 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2137 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Report by Mario Mairena from Cesar Amador Molina Regional Hospital]

[Excerpt] From Matagalpa this is a report for Radio Sandino. Msgr Salvador Antonio Shaeffer, bishop of Bluefields, was injured this morning during a criminal counter-revolutionary ambush. Msgr Shaeffer was traveling in a civilian vehicle. This attack against the Catholic Church prelate was carried out in the area known as Las Brisas, Guaslala. According to a statement by Dr Moises Espinosa Vargas at the Cesar Amador Molina Regional Hospital, Msgr Shaeffer has already been discharged.

The driver of the vehicle reported that there was an explosion and then shots were fired at the vehicle. Here is Dr Moises Espinosa on Msgr Shaeffer's condition: [Espinosa] Msgr Shaeffer arrived here at approximately 1350. His condition was stable, he was calm, and was conscious. He showed slight cuts on his hands and face. The cuts on his face were not too serious. More serious were the ones on his arms. He had a wound in his right thigh apparently caused by the entry of a piece of shrapnel. X-rays were ordered, and the piece of shrapnel was seen 2 or 3 cm under the skin. The surgeon on-call examined him, and it was decided not to remove the shrapnel since it would create no problems. Msgr Shaeffer was treated with antiblotics and discharged.

Presidency Communique on Attack

PA112247 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2138 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Communique No 17 issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic in Managua on 11 April; read by (Ileana Ordonez), press director]

[Text] The Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic reports to our people the following:

1. Today, 11 April, while the bishop of the Atlantic coast, Msgr Salvador Shaeffer, was traveling from Siuna to Matagalpa he was injured by shrapnel when his car was ambushed by counterrevolutionary groups near La Patriota, Las Brisas, 20 km from Waslala.

2. Members of the militia of the Construction Ministry stationed in La Patriota, Las Brisas, immediately repelled the attack by the mercenary forces and rescued Msgr Shaeffer and his companion.

3. After the bishop was rescued by our forces he was taken to Matagalpa, where he received needed medical treatment.

[Signed] Managua, 11 April; Information and Press Directorate

GOVERNMENT RELEASES 76 HONDURAN FISHERMEN

PA110453 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] The 76 alleged Honduran fishermen who were captured in Nicaraguan waters were turned over to Honduras today at 0600, at the border post of El Guasaule, western Chinandega Department. The delivery of the neighboring country's citizens was handled by Nicaraguan migration officials, and Honduran Government officials received the fishermen. Referring to the 76 Hondurans' arrest, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry pointed out that the fishermen were captured by Nicaraguan revolutionary authorities because they entered Nicaraguan territorial waters in the Pacific Ocean.

COTTON PRODUCERS DISSATISFIED WITH NEW PRICE

PA111510 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Apr 85 p 5

[Excerpts] Mario Javier Gutierrez Pena, president of the Association of Cotton Producers of the Eastern Region, told LA PRENSA, the newspaper of the Nicaraguan people, that with the new price per 100-pound bale of cotton approved by the government, some cotton producers will be able to pay their bank loans, but they will never make any profit. That is why many cotton producers are planning to grow a different crop instead of cotton.

The 1,200 cordobas per 100-pound bale for export will still leave the cotton producers with debts to the banks, Gutierrez Pena said, adding that the price for a 100-pound bale should be 3,000 cordobas. Mario Javier Gutierrez Pena, Nicolas Bolanos, Mauricio Lacayo and other members of the Association of Cotton Producers of the Eastern Region, believe that Commander Jaime Wheelock, agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, has not been properly informed, because the persons who are supposed to keep him well informed do not seem to know anything about cotton.

According to the latest reports, as of 23 March, cotton production in the eastern zone was 560,000 quintals, an average of 27 quintals per manzana. This is quite different from the 57.5 quintals per manzana that Wheelock had announced. Another big inaccuracy in Wheelock's estimates is the total cotton production in the country. Wheelock said production would be 90 percent of the total estimate, but so far production is barely 82 percent of what the experts had estimated. The cotton producers have told the government that 23,000 to 24,000 cordobas is the approximate production cost per manzana. The latest cost increases approved by the cotton producers, the new wage scale, pruning, plowing and other expenses are not included.

The Association of Cotton Producers of the Eastern Region directors said they have not been able to talk to Wheelock, despite the many requests they have made for an interview. They want to discuss with him the problems affecting the cotton industry and next year's crop, but so far they have not heard from him. The Association of Cotton Producers of the Eastern Region feels that the new price established by the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry is way below this year's production costs. The cotton producers said that they will make a report updating the production costs for this year's crop, which will show that 3,000 cordobas per 100-pound bale is the right price.

The main question for the cotton producers is: How many cotton producers are in a position to continue producing cotton at a loss? Those who aren't will have to start growing something else that is more profitable than cotton.

LA PRENSA WITHDRAWN FOR 2 DAYS DUE TO CENSORSHIP

PA110456 Paris AFP in Spanish 2313 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Managua, 10 Apr (AFP) -- Roberto Cardenal, member of LA PRENSA's editorial board, has reported that for the second time this week, this opposition's daily was not allowed to circulate, "due to the government's censorship on reports related to the U.S. Government's peace plan."

Cardenal said that "80 percent of our information material was censored," adding that the measure is an attempt "to conceal the international support that President Reagan's peace plan is receiving." The plan includes an ultimatum to the Sandinist Government, to begin talks with the rebel guerrilla groups. The offer expires in June.

This week, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega rejected the ultimatum, but hinted that he would be willing to discuss the U.S. proposals if Reagan resumes the bilateral talks in Manzanillo, Mexico.

The following headlines stand out among the reports censored in LA PRENSA: "Argentina Supports Peace Plan," and another one referring to Mexico's stance, which stated "De la Madrid: Plan, A Step Forward." "The Sandinistas are now even banning the Mexican reports, which were never censored before," Cardenal stressed.

LA PRENSA did not circulate last Monday either, due to problems similar to the ones we had today, said its directors.

400 FDN MEN REPORTEDLY DESERT TO PASTORA GROUP

PA101555 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1812 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] San Jose, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A spokesman for the Nicaraguan opposition today reported that some 400 men of the anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] have deserted to the ranks of Eden Pastora Gomez. Pastora heads a faction of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE).

Jose Davila, who is in charge of ARDE political affairs, said during a press conference that those men are currently fighting in central Nicaragua. The FDN carries out most of its military operations in northern Nicaragua while ARDE operates in southern Nicaragua.

Davila said that these anti-Sandinist fighters see ARDE as the only alternative to the Sandinist regime since other anti-Sandinist organizations have proposed peace talks with the government in Managua. The Nicaraguan politician believes that such dialogue offers constitute "a gradual surrender," which is rejected by ARDE.

In a document signed by top anti-Sandinists and issued in March, Nicaraguan exile groups urged the Nicaraguan Government to begin a dialogue before 20 March. That deadline was complemented by an initiative of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who set 1 June as the deadline for Managua to begin holding talks with the civilian and military opposition.

ARDE'S DAVILA CRITICIZES U.S STAND ON DIALOGUE

PA101808 Paris AFP in Spanish 1809 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] San Jose, 9 Apr (AFP) -- The faction of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) led by Eden Pastora will continue to fight against the Sandinist government "with or without aid" from the United States, a spokesman for the Nicaraguan rebel organization stated in this capital today. Jose Davila, an ARDE leader, said today at a press conference that the United States "has capitulated in Nicaragua and has reached some kind of agreement with the communists," commenting on the extension of the deadline given to the Sandinist government by the other opposition groups for the dialogue to begin.

Davila, with Donald Castillo of the same faction, deplored the lack of U.S. assistance and although he admitted that "we are in economic bankruptcy," he insisted that the only way to put an end to the Sandinist regime is through armed struggle. Davila criticized the position of the remainder of the Nicaraguan opposition groups and the United States to give Nicaragua until 1 June to begin the dialogue with the rebels. He termed this decision a "gradual surrender." Davila explained that the Nicaraguan Government, as it has done before, will not accept the dialogue and, therefore "we have seen no other alternative but war." According to the Nicaraguan rebel leader, what the opposition needs at this time is the unity of all groups in the struggle, as well as international aid, both economic and political, with pressure on the Sandinist government.

On Monday Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega rejected a proposal by his U.S. counterpart Ronald Reagan to begin a dialogue with the rebel groups before 1 June, asking in turn for the resumption of bilateral talks between the two governments.

ARDE ON CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORTS, LANDING OF C-47

PA110118 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2200 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] After 6 months of arduous work, workers and peasants who are members of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, have constructed 12 airports in territory under our control, which includes a stretch of 10,000 square km.

Through great efforts, the peasant insurrection has made it possible for C-47 planes to land at these airstrips. ARDE, which is under the political and military leadership of Commander Eden Pastora Gomez, already has six airports in operation, and right now the calloused hands of workers and peasants are building six more airports for our Air Force.

The first C-47 plane landed at one of our airports last Monday, transporting five launchers, food, weapons, and medical supplies, all of which was donated by the Cuban-Nicaraguan colonies in Miami.

The first C-47 arriving in liberated territory, landed at the improvised Commander Sebastian Muller Airport at 0900 on Monday. The pilot was our comrade and brother-in-arms Richard. Comrade Richard is a Nicaraguan pilot, who worked for the Nicaraguan Airline for many years. The airport was named Sebastian Muller in memory of our companero who died in a suicide action on 5 September 1983, when the twin-engine plane he was courageously flying crashed as a result of the shock waves from the bombs it had dropped on the military installations of the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport.

Journalists of our southern neighbor Costa Rica who have visited our mountains have witnessed our advancements in our struggle against the communist totalitarianism.

'OUR AMERICA' DISCUSSES REAGAN PROPOSAL

PA101900 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 8 Apr 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] A U.S. presidential adviser is preparing a number of options on how to proceed with U.S. President Ronald Reagan's program for aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaires. White House spokesman Larry Speakes indicated that National Security adviser Robert McFarlane will present these alternatives to Reagan this week. This announcement comes after the U.S. President met in Congress with Republican leaders from whom he received a gloomy report on the results of his request for an additional allocation of $14 million to continue aid to the counterrevolutionary bands.

Robert Michel, Republican leader in the House of Represenatives, said that he has spoken with several Democratic representatives and found some willingness to compromise on their part with regard to aid to the former Somozist guardsmen which the House, controlled by the Democrats, has refused to support.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole stressed that McFarlane is gathering options and that he believes that proposals will be made to continue the covert aid or to seek other alternatives. It seems that President Reagan himself is directing these alternatives since he has suggested that he give Congress a respite in his insistence that it authorize the financing of the counterrevolutionary groups. Reagan has already announced a so-called peace proposal that is of a clear, interventionist nature. In it he urges Nicaragua to negotiate, within 60 days, with the mercenary bands that daily kill peasant families in Nicaraguan territory. The deadline, or better the aggressive interventionist ultimatum that would expire in June, demands that the Nicaraguan Government establish a cease-fire during that period, hold new elections with the participation of the counterrevolutionary groups, and give up military advice from other countries.

Experts in Central American military affairs indicated the terms of his request to Congress for the approval of $14 million in military aid for the mercenary bands that attack Nicaragua. In this regard, U.S. Colonel (Edward Finn), an analyst for the Pentagon's foreign policy, said that Reagan is asking Nicaragua to do something that that no sovereign government does; that is, to lay down its weapons in the face of an attacking force. He recalled that Reagan's demand that Nicaragua accept the pact that the counterrevolutionary groups signed in San Jose, Costa Rica in March has already been rejected by the Nicaraguan Government. He said that this is a maneuver so that the undecided members of Congress will find it easier to vote in favor of the $14 million and that it is less a means to urge the Sandinists to be in favor of peace, a position that they have held for a long time.

On his part, Colonel (Sam Dickens), of the U.S. National Security Council, said that with his statement Reagan has given the counterrevolutionary bands the publicity that they wanted. He noted that the financing of the Nicaraguan mercenary groups could cause problems with the neutrality act that affects the U.S. constitutional process. The statements by these experts coincide with the pressures that legislators of the Republican Party, to which Reagan belongs, are exerting on their Democratic colleagues.

The U.S. interventionist and aggressive policy contrasts with that of some West European governments that have expressed a willingness to offer to the Central American nations more direct aid and commercial concessions in order to meet the regional economic crisis. In this regard, FRG Ambassador to Mexico Heinz Dittmann has told the press that during the second meeting of foreign minister of the EEC, the Contadora Group, and the Central American countries which will be held in October, offers for low interest rates and preferential tariffs for Central American products will be presented.

STANSFIELD TURNER DISCUSSES 'TERRORIST ACTS'

FL101730 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Former CIA Director Stansfield Turner has acknowledged to the press in Managua that the acts of the counterrevolutionaries that operate in Nicaragua with the support of the United States can be described as terrorist. Nevertheless, Mr Turner considered terrorist acts only such actions as the mining of Nicaraguan ports, forgetting that every day the counterrevolutionaries murder women, children, and old people, set fire to towns, and dynamite civilian objectives.

GORBACHEV-O'NEILL MEETING IN MOSCOW REPORTED

FL111545 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] The differences in social systems and ideology between the Soviet Union and the United States are not matters for freezing relations, Mikhail Gorbachev has said. The Soviet Union party secretary general repeated his country's willingness to improve Soviet-U.S. ties. This position was adopted during talks with U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Thomas O'Neill and the delegation accompanying him to the USSR.

Gorbachev referred to examples of cooperation and basic documents signed in 1972 and 1973, which laid the foundation for bilateral cooperation in different areas. In the 1972 document, USSR and U.S. leaders agreed that the only sensible alternative in the nuclear age is peaceful coexistence between the two countries. This contributed to the process of detente, later endorsed by the Helsinki conference.

BOLIVIAN TRADE OFFICE TO OPEN IN HAVANA

FL112240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Bolivian Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena has told Radio Havana, Cuba, that relations between Bolivia and Cuba will shortly receive a boost when a Bolivian trade office is opened in Havana. Rueda Pena said that during his visit to Cuba, which he called fruitful, the bases had been established for an agreement to allow the exchange of radio and television programs aimed at improving relations between the Bolivian and Cuban peoples.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION HALTED IN MATANZAS

FL111948 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1814 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] The Architecture and Urbanism Directorate of Cardenas, Matanzas, has reported that work on 59 projects was halted during the first quarter of this year for violations of the licensing regulations to complete, enlarge, or repair housing units. Most of the projects were in unhealthy areas where it is not permitted to build homes.

COLOMBIA

BELGIAN PRIEST SHOT BY MILITARY PATROL IN CALI

PA101755 Paris AFP in Spanish 1407 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 10 Apr (AFP) -- Daniel Overth Villar, a Belgian priest, was shot today by a military patrol here today for disobeying an order to stop his vehicle, the curia has reported. The 55-year-old priest, who has lived in Colombia for 15 years, was shot five times in the head and is hovering between life and death in a state clinic in the capital of the southwestern Province of Valle.

Msgr Pedro Rubiano, bishop of Cali, told AFP today that "individuals wearing military uniforms fired at the priest" and indicated that "he is in very grave condition; I fear for his life."

Colombian Nohemi Arevalo, secretary of Caritas International, who accompanied the priest to a meeting they held with other priests up until the morning hours, was also wounded in the incident.

Eyewitnesses said that Villar did not heed the order to halt given by the military patrol in charge of El Vergel suburb and, consequently, one of the soldiers opened fired with machine-gun fire.

According to Bishop Rubiano, the wounded priest was promoting social betterment programs in the neglected areas of the city of Cali, which was placed under military control last night to prevent guerrilla actions.

PANAMA

FURTHER ON ARDITO BARLETTA, SHLAUDEMAN MEETING

PA111430 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Apr 85 pp 1, A 14

[Text] Yesterday, Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta and Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega met in the Palace of the Herons with Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman, special representative of the U.S. President, and U.S. Ambassador to Panama Everett Briggs.

The conversation mainly centered on President Reagan's 4 April proposal. President Ardito Barletta expressed the opinion that there are positive elements in the proposal, especially to the extent that it promotes both the cessation of hostilities in Central America as well as dialogue instead of confrontation. The Panamanian president indicated that in any case it is important to have a waiting period to study the proposal in-depth to determine its real scope. He expressed his satisfaction over the support that President Reagan has given to the Contadora Group's efforts.

President Ardito Barletta noted that the Contadora Group has always been in favor of dialogue among the parties in conflict. This is reflected in the Contadora Document which raises such a dialogue to a level of commitment in the area of national reconciliation. The president also reiterated that at all times the Contadora Group acts in accordance with the essential principles of international law, among which noninterference in each country's internal affairs is basic.